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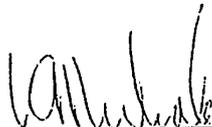
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE
BY-LAW 1993-20

A by-law to designate Merton-Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery, located on the North Service Road West as a property of historical and contextual value and interest

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as Merton-Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery, located on the North Service Road West, is hereby designated as a property of historical and contextual value and interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act for reasons set out in Schedule "A" to this By-law.
2. The property designated by this By-law is the property described in Schedule "B" attached to this By-law.

PASSED by the Council this 29th day of March, 1993.



MAYOR



CLERK



SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 1993-20

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Merton - Mt. Pleasant (Methodist Episcopal) Cemetery was established in 1880 on the Grounds of The Mount Pleasant Church which was then under construction. The Church and cemetery were established to serve the Methodist-Episcopal Community of Merton.

Merton was a Hamlet that was established in 1812 around the junction of the Second Line (Bronte Road) and Lower Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way). The name "Merton" was suggested by Edward Wrench, a settler from Merton, in Middlesex County, England. Merton reached its peak in population around 1880 when it was a centre for harvesting the abundant supply of pine trees in the surrounding area. It was also an important transportation centre, approximately halfway along the route between Palermo on the Dundas Highway and Bronte on the Lakeshore. The hamlet was also adjacent to the Bronte Depot on the Hamilton and Toronto Railway.

The erection of Mount Pleasant Church was completed at the close of 1880 and the Dedicatory Service took place on February 2nd 1881. The opening service was conducted by the Reverend Stone, a preacher from Hamilton and the Reverend Argue who was the pastor.

A "Monster Tea Meeting" followed the opening at which William McCraney, the M.P. for Halton was Chairman and who in addition to contributing to the opening ceremony had given the church a set of pulpit chairs and also gave the timbers and lumber for erecting the church. Other contributors to the building of the church included Mrs. Keturah Buck, wife of Dr. Anson Buck, who laid the corner stone and William Utter a local farmer who had donated one acre of his property to be used for the church and the cemetery.

Some of the names of families who attended the church and who were interred in the cemetery include Luscombe, Joyce, Douglas, Speers, MacDonald, Patterson, Oakley and Carpenter. The earliest headstone is for Milo Secord, son of Aaron and Emily Secord who passed away on July 5, 1888 aged eight days. The last headstone is for Isabel Luscombe who passed away in 1955 and was buried with her parents and brother who had died some years earlier. An interesting headstone is for John Oakley Joyce who had "drowned at Chicago" in 1892.

After the turn of the century, the congregation of the Mount Pleasant Church began to decline. By 1918, the congregation was so small that it became necessary to close the church and split the congregation between the Palermo and Bronte Churches. It was hoped at the time that if there was ever a need for a church in the future, that the church could be reopened. The church remained closed for nine years.

In March, 1927 the church was deconsecrated and was offered for auction. Out of respect for the people interred in the cemetery, however, it was decided that the cemetery would not be sold and would remain undisturbed.

Mount Pleasant Church was eventually sold, demolished and its materials were carried away for use in other buildings.

The only remaining trace of the church today is its datestone which is set down in the cemetery. The datestone reads "Mt. Pleasant, M.E. Church, 1880".

The Merton - Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery contains a number of headstones of limestone or granite composition. The marble datestone for the Mount Pleasant Church is set in concrete among the headstones.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Merton - Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery is located within a clearing of mature trees between the Queen Elizabeth Way and the North Service Road. The site is one of the last remnants of the Hamlet of Merton.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 1993-20

Part of the west half of Lot 28, Concession 2, South of Dundas Street, Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton (formerly Township of Trafalgar, County of Halton) more particularly described as follows:

PREMISING that the southerly limit of the said Lot 28 has a bearing of N 38° E and relating all bearings herein thereto.

COMMENCING at the southeast angle of the said west half of Lot 28;

THENCE N 45° W a distance of 264 feet to a point;

THENCE S 38° W a distance of 165 feet to a point;

THENCE S 45° E a distance of 264 feet more or less to a point in the said southerly limit of Lot 28;

THENCE N 38° E along the said southerly limit of Lot 28 a distance of 165 feet more or less to the point of commencement.

Being the lands described in Instrument No. 3077 N (Trafalgar).

Save and except the lands expropriated for highway purposes shown on Highway Plan No. 280 and No. 305.